

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 are amended, claims 11-20 are added and claims 6-9 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,844,469 to Yasuda et al. (Yasuda). The rejection of claims 6-8 is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 6-8. The rejection of claims 1 and 3 is respectfully traversed.

Yasuda fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claims 1 and 3 including, *inter alia*, a measurement value output means for changing a state of an output level from OFF to ON or ON to OFF at predetermined time intervals and for outputting an ON/OFF signal, at predetermined time intervals, that maintains the changed state of the output level as ON or OFF for a time period corresponding to the time width obtained from the signal converting means, as recited in amended claims 1 and 3. Further, with regard to claim 1 Yasuda fails to disclose, *inter alia*, that a magnitude of the measurement value obtained from the signal converting means is outputted using the ON/OFF signal outputted at the predetermined time intervals, as recited in amended claim 1. Further, with regard to claim 3, Yasuda fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, an output timing controlling means for controlling an output timing of respective ones of the plurality of measurement value converters to sequentially output the respective ON/OFF signals at predetermined time intervals, as recited in amended claim 3.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Yasuda fails to disclose or suggest all the features recited in each of claims 1 and 3, as well as all the features recited in claims 11-20, which depend from one of claims 1 and 3. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yasuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,550,308 to Tokura et al. (Tokura). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Tokura fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yasuda, as discussed above with regard to claim 1, from which claims 2 and 4 depend. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Yasuda and Tokura fails to disclose or suggest all the features recited in claims 2 and 4. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

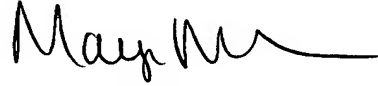
Claims 5, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yasuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,853,304 to Reisman et al. (Reisman). The rejection of claim 9 is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 9. The rejection of claims 5 and 10 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Reisman fails to overcome the deficiencies of Yasuda, as discussed above with regard to claim 1, from which claims 5 and 10 depend. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Yasuda and Reisman fails to disclose or suggest all the features recited in claims 5 and 10. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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